(b) and (c) Coal India Limited has reported that major production of coking coal of Coal India Ltd. is being consumed by integrated Steel Plants and Coke Ovens. Though demand in this sector has not been affected by imports of Chinese Coke, demand of raw coking coal from cokery units has been affected by import of Chinese Coke.

(d) The dumping of Chinese Coke into the country was examined by the designated authority. After hearing the affected parties and considering the submissions of the parties, the. designated authority has imposed an anti-dumping duty of metallurgical coke being imported from China PR at a rate as equivalent to the difference between Rs. 4673/- and the landed value of met-coke/m.t.

Coal production in North-Eastern States

317. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that the coal production is less than 1 MT per annum against a total of 889.81 MT of coal reserves in the North-Eastern States of Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya and Nagaland;

(b) if so, the reason for the low production; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by Government to increase the production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) Yes, Sir. The North Eastern Coalfields Coal India Ltd. is producting less than 1 MT per annum.

(b) Lack of demand, inadequate rail infrastructure facility, difficult geo-mining conditions, unviable economics of mining are some of the major reasons for less production of coal in the region compared to the coal reserves. Most of the coal deposits of Meghalaya, Nagaland and Mikir Hills of Assam are small with thin seams. Many of these deposits are under exploitation manually in unorganised private sector by driving small adits and inclines as well as by opencast working managed by local inhabitants and such mining is in practice since ages. It is also difficult to economically exploit the thin seams in the isolated small coal deposits by the organised sector. Under the difficult geo-mining conditions stated above the cost of production will be prohibitive.

(c) Because of very high production cost of mining coal in North-Eastern Coalfields, CIL is losing heavily on operations in North Eastern Coalfields. Further expansion of NEC operations would mean much bigger losses as the cost of production of the new mines would be higher. It may not therefore be economically profitable for CIL to enhance the production of N.E. coal at present. However, effeorts will be made to improve the same in future depending on the leverage allowed by the market forces.

कोयले का खनन

318. **श्री डी.पी. यादव :** क्या कोयला मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:-

(क) चालू वर्ष के दौरान देश की प्रमुख कोयला खानों से कुल कितने कोयले का उत्खनन किया गया,

(ख) चालू वर्ष के दौरान कुल कितने कोयले का निर्यात किया गया, और

(ग) क्या उक्त निर्यात गत वर्ष की तुलना में अधिक है, यदि हां, तो कितना और चालू वर्ष के दौरान कोयले के निर्यात द्वारा सरकार को कितनी आय हुई ?

कोयला मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री दिलीप राय) : (क) अप्रैल, अक्तूबर, 1998 के दौरान देश में कोयले का कुल उत्पादन 154.68 मिलियन टन (अंनतिम) रहा है।

(ख) अक्तबूर, 1998 तक 0.22 लाख टन (अंतिम) कोयले का निर्यात किया गया।

(ग) जी, नहीं। वर्तमान वर्ष के दौरान (अक्तूबर, 98 तक) हुआ निर्यात पिछले वर्ष की इसी अवधि के